

DuPont



DuPont provided global leadership and innovation in developing unprecedented policy and alternative technology that reduced the environmental impact caused by ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). DuPont provided industry leadership --- seeking scientific understanding of the potential impact of the existing technology (CFCs) at the time, responding to the rapid advances in science, and developing alternative products.

In the 1930s, DuPont commercialized CFCs to provide less hazardous alternatives to the sulfur dioxide and ammonia that were then used as refrigerants. Because of their superior safety and performance characteristics, CFCs became widely used in a number of applications – including refrigeration, air conditioning and medical inhalers for asthma patients.

DuPont understood in the early 1970s that CFCs were accumulating in the atmosphere and led a global research effort to gain a better scientific understanding of the environmental fate and potential impact of CFCs. The company also recognized that ozone depletion was a complex global issue with scientific, environmental, technological, societal, and economic aspects – including over \$135 billion worth of installed equipment dependent on CFC products at the time.

DuPont helped facilitate unprecedented cooperation among scientists, environmental organizations, governments and industry that led to a number of significant international policy achievements. As scientific evidence accumulated, DuPont responded by:

- Calling for an international agreement to limit CFC global consumption and laying the groundwork for the Montreal Protocol -- the world's first international agreement to address an environmental issue.
- Making a unilateral corporate commitment to an orderly phaseout of CFCs -- establishing a benchmark for global action.
- Initiating a large-scale technical effort to identify environmentally acceptable alternatives, and to develop and scale up manufacturing technologies.
- Forming consortia to accelerate testing of CFC replacements

The company was the first to commercialize environmentally acceptable hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants such as DuPont Suva®, which enabled major industries - like refrigeration and air conditioning - to continue meeting societal needs with products that reduced the impact on ozone depletion. This effort led to the successful development of a series of alternatives for CFCs which substantially reduced the time from research to commercial production.

The widespread and orderly phaseout of CFCs and their replacement with safe, effective and environmentally acceptable alternatives is one of the great technological and industrial success stories of our time.

As a recognized leader in sustainability, DuPont has earned a number of environmentally responsible awards including the World Environment Center's Gold Medal. DuPont has consistently earned high marks on social responsibility and environmental progress in surveys such as Fortune Magazine's "Most Admired Companies" and the Financial Times PriceWaterhouseCoopers' "World's Most Respected Companies."

DuPont is a science company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by solving problems and creating solutions that make people's lives better, safer and easier. Operating in more than 70 countries, the company offers a wide range of products and services to markets including agriculture, nutrition, electronics, communications, safety and protection, home and construction, transportation and apparel.